

The Fayette County Public Library Offers New Online Access to Digital Audio Books

Hundreds of Free Audio Books Available via Digital Download from Library's Web Site

FAYETTEVILLE, Ga. – (November 3, 2008) – This month, the Fayette County Public Library launches a digital audio book collection allowing cardholders to download audio books from the Internet, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, free of charge. Whether commuting to work or relaxing at home, users can listen to a wide range of fiction and nonfiction books on portable devices, CD players, or via their PCs and laptops.

Listeners of all ages can choose from a selection of over 1,000 titles in fiction, narrative nonfiction, business, biography, self-help, and language instruction. Available titles range from recent bestsellers such as *The Snowball: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life* and Nicholas Sparks' *The Lucky One* to classics such as *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Call of the Wild*. Users may listen to digital audio books on their Windows desktop or laptop computers; burn to CD for playing in the car or on stereo; or transfer to selected portable devices, including Windows Media-compatible MP3 players and iPods. Digital audio books check out for 7 days, incur no overdue fines, and are available for free Internet downloading 24 hours a day through the library's website, www.fayettecountyga.gov/public_library. The service is limited to those PINES cardholders who are identified in the library computer system with the Fayette County Public Library in Fayetteville as their home library.

In order to borrow digital audio books, users follow the link from the library home page to the Georgia Download Destination site, a starting point shared with other participating PINES libraries. From there, users browse or search the initial selection of 1,010 popular titles, ranging from romance fiction, mysteries, and classics to business, technology, biography, and language instruction. For example, some titles include "*Hot, Flat and Crowded*" (Thomas Friedman), "*The Legs are the Last to Go*" (Diahann Carroll), "*Ladies of Liberty*" (Cokie Roberts), "*Honor Bound*" (W. E. B. Griffin), "*In-Flight Italian*", and "*Salvation in Death*" (J. D. Robb). Check-out is fast and easy: Fayette County Public Library users simply select "Fayette County" from a drop-down list of libraries, then enter in their PINES card number and their PINES account password. Up to five digital audio books may be on loan at one time. After one week, the materials are automatically checked in and made available for other users. If the requested title is not immediately available, users can place a hold on it and receive email notification when it becomes available.

Downloadable digital audio books have been licensed through OverDrive, Inc., a leader in managing distribution of digitized content utilizing digital rights management technology (DRM) to publishers, retailers, and libraries. Additional information about OverDrive is available at www.overdrive.com.

An Abundance of Listening Choices

Audio book listeners who do not have MP3 players still have plenty of options at the Fayette County Public Library. The library boasts a collection of over 5,000 books on compact disc and cassette tape, with new titles being added all the time. Cardholders can also request any of the hundreds of audio books held at the other libraries in the Flint River Regional Library System, and have them sent to the library in Fayetteville for pickup.

In addition to the downloadable titles, another innovation in audio book listening is now available at the Fayette County Public Library. The library now offers a small but growing collection of titles on Playaway, the first self-playing, self-contained audio book. Each palm-sized unit is permanently loaded with an audio book to make listening as simple as pressing “play.” Half the size of a deck of cards, Playaway has clearly marked buttons that allow listeners to move back and forth within or between chapters and alter the speed of a narrator’s voice. It even has an automatic bookmark feature that remembers where you left off. Playaway’s universal headphone jack works with almost any type of headphone. Some of the titles now ready for check-out from the Fayette County Public Library are “*Motor Mouth*” (Janet Evanovich), “*Wicked*” (Gregory Maguire), “*Married Men*” (Carl Weber), “*Christmas Letters*” (Debbie Macomber), “*Pimsleur’s Spanish*”, and “*Rich Dad’s Guide to Investing*” (Robert Kiyosaki). After checking out a Playaway, all the listener needs to add are headphones and a single AAA battery. Playaways check out for two weeks at a time.

Playaway is a product of Findaway World, a privately held company based in Cleveland, Ohio. Learn more about the company and the product at www.playawaydigital.com.

For more information about the Fayette County Public Library’s audio book offerings, please call the library at 770-461-8841, or visit the website at www.fayettecountyga.gov/public_library.

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